

### Remarks

An object of the present invention is to provide a new and inventive form of cable management system that offers a simple, entry-level system of low complexity while, at the same time, offering a simple and flexible upgrade path by which additional PCs can easily be added and managed very effectively.

Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize that the stated object is achieved by providing a plurality of user modules for attachment to the base unit, each of which user modules is electrically connected with the bus of the base unit via a respective bus connector. Each user module has a PC port, for connection with a local computer, and at least one peripheral port for connection with a user interface device. The ports of each user module are arranged such that a computer on the PC port is operably connected to one or more peripheral ports and, via the respective bus connector, to the bus.

The specification has been amended to obviate the objection to the embedded hyperlink.

All claims stand rejected as having been anticipated by Smith United States patent No. 5,516,298. It is respectfully submitted that the invention, as presently defined in amended Claim 1, is neither anticipated by nor would it have been obvious over the prior art.

The desk attachment described by Smith is suitable only for use with a single PC having with a single access point for power and data, which are supplied to panel 46 (Figure 4) through an aperture 37 (Figure 3) in the rear of the desk. In order to attach a PC, the cables from the PC are fed through the apertures 32' (Figure 2) and along the channels 30 to power receptacles 53 and voice/data receptacle pairs 48.

It is clear from Figure 2 of Smith that the access point is intended only for connection of a single "computer unit" 22', and it would clearly be an extremely complex task to install a second computer at the same workstation. Obviously, the panel 46 does not include a communications bus having a plurality of bus connectors. The front and rear views of Figures 4 and 5 clearly show that the telecommunications connectors 51 and 52 each has a single input (at the rear, Figure 3) and a single output (Figure 4).

In contrast, the present system provides a single base unit which carries a communication bus to which a plurality of user modules can be attached, each individually accessing the bus via a respective bus connector and providing a PC port and at least one peripheral port for a user interface device. The claimed arrangement is clearly unique, and is not taught in or suggested by the prior art.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant claims define an invention that is novel and patentable over the prior art. Passage of the application to allowance is believed to be clearly in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.


Respectfully submitted,  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, IRA S. DORMAN, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed as set forth on the first page hereof, on June 16, 2006.



cc: Mr. Stephen A. Craske  
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